

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 16 December 2004 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours in the Fort Hood Officers Club, Building 5764.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present: LTG(Ret) Taylor, Chairman; Col(Ret) Oliver, Assoc. Member; COL(Ret) Gauer; COL(Ret) Portmann; COL(Ret) Somera; COL(Ret) Davis; LTC(Ret) Woodward; CW3(Ret) Hanger; CSM(R) Minosky, Member; SCPO(Ret) Lubasky, USN; SFC(Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member and Mrs. Greathouse, Widow.

b. Members Absent: CSM(R) Cayton, Vice Chairman; MG(Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member; 1SG(Ret) Stotts, Member; 1SG(Ret) Fisher; USAF; 1SG(Ret) Miller; MSG(Ret) Hayner; MSG(Ret) Wood.

3. The Chairman called the meeting to order.

4. The Chairman introduced, COL Ben Dekoning, Commander, DACH. COL Dekoning gave an update on the Oncology Clinic (slides enclosed). During his update, COL Dekoning reported that all patients currently receiving care at the Oncology Clinic will continue to receive care. New patients (other than active duty and dependents and TRICARE Prime) beginning services will be referred out for local care. Although GWOT dollars are available for soldiers hurt in Iraq, the hospital received budget cuts for normal services and all health services had to be reviewed. After COL Dekoning's update, during discussion it was brought up that patients currently receiving care at the DACH Oncology Clinic are not able to see an Oncologist and must still go to San Antonio to be seen. Council asked if Oncologists when they come to DACH could be able to stay longer than a day in order to see more patients. This would prevent patients from having to travel to San Antonio. COL Dekoning said that he would look into the current schedules of Oncologists coming to DACH and if those schedules could be changed to better accommodate current patient numbers.

5. The Chairman opened discussion reference the After Action Report (AAR) for the 2004 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD). After discussion it was moved and carried to approve the AAR as written. Proposed date in AAR for the 31st RAD is 29 Oct 05 in conjunction with the Retiree Retreat Ceremony on 28 Oct 05.

6. The Chairman also opened discussion reference a guest speaker for Retiree Appreciation Day 2005 (29 October 2005). Representative John Carter, 31st Congressional District of Texas was brought up as the guest speaker. After discussion, it was moved and carried to invite Representative Carter to be the guest speaker on 29 October 2005 for the Opening Ceremony for Retiree Appreciation Day. (Proposed Invite Letter enclosed for CG signature).

6. COL(Ret) Portmann updated the council on the CSA Retiree Council and the Health Consumer Committee meeting.

a. CSA Retiree Council: No issues had been submitted from the Council members since the last meeting. The Chairman suggested an issue on the "Equity of Retiree Health Care." Meaning that there is a separation between TRICARE Prime Retirees and TRICARE For Life Retirees in the type of health care they are able to receive at a Military Treatment Facility. TRICARE Prime Retirees are given priority over TRICARE For Life. After discussion it was moved and seconded that an issue on this topic should be drafted for submission to the CSA Council. Colonels Gauer and Portmann would draft the issue. Before submission, it would be sent to the Council members for their review/concurrence.

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b. Health Consumer Committee Meeting: COL(Ret) Portmann provided a summary of the Health Consumer Council minutes to the Council Members. Discussion was opened for Health Care Issues. It was brought up that Emergency Issues are no problem at DACH, but there are issues with routine health care. Suggestion made to invite Gordon Plumlee, TRICARE Program Manager and DACH Liaison to address the Council so members will have a better understanding of the system. It was moved and seconded to invite Gordon Plumlee to a future meeting for TRICARE Update.

8. LTC(Ret) Woodward reported on Volunteer/Club Activities. LTC(Ret) Woodward stated that the American Red Cross still needs volunteers for the Caremobile at Darnall Hospital. He reported that IMA had visited the DMWR activities and would have results of their visit at the next Retiree Council meeting.

9. CW3(Ret) Hanger gave an update on commissary activities. He reported that there is now a Sushi Bar at both commissaries. In the near future, a mister for the produce section at both commissaries will be installed. CW3(Ret) Hanger also reported that internet coupons are now being accepted at both commissaries.

10. The Chairman opened up the council for an open forum. An additional health care issue was discussed reference flu shots for Retirees. Since the flu shot was not available for the Retiree Appreciation Day, the Chairman asked that option be explored to provide flu shots on another day for Retirees when the vaccine became available. COL(Ret) Portmann said he would check on it and report back as soon as possible with the status of the flu shot being available for retirees and a specific date(s) designated for Retirees to get the flu shot at DACH. E-mail and phone contact will be used to provide any information to Council Members.

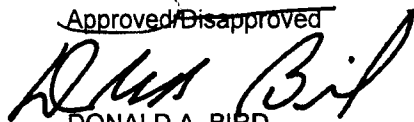
11. The Chairman informed the council that the next meeting is scheduled for 10 March 2005, FHOC, and adjourned the meeting at 1300 hours.

Encl
as

//Original Signed//
LTG(Ret) H. G. TAYLOR
Chairman

JAN 26 2005

~~Approved/Disapproved~~



DONALD A. BIRD
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff